UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Evans - 343-5634

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INTERIOR SCHEDULES LAUNCHING OF NEW OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL

The newest vessel in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries growing research fleet, the <u>David Starr Jordan</u>, is scheduled to be launched today at Sturgeon Bay, Wis., the Department of the Interior has announced.

After completion, the \$1,800,000 ship will travel to La Jolla, Calif., via the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence Seaway, and the Panama Canal.

The <u>David Starr Jordan</u> is an all-welded steel vessel, 171 feet long with a 37-foot beam and 11-foot draft. It is powered by twin diesel engines of more than 500 horsepower each. The <u>David Starr Jordan</u> will have a cruising speed of 12 knots and will be capable of remaining at sea up to 40 days. The crusing range will be more than 8,000 miles.

More than one-third the ship's enclosed space will be devoted to laboratories and support areas. It will have laboratories for biological specimens, hydrograph, water chemistry, radioactive substances, and sonar surveying. The David Starr Jordan will have accommondations for 13 scientists and 22 crew members.

Additional features include underwater observation stations fore and aft and two 450-cubic-foot wells for live specimens. A unique bow propulsion system will enable the vessel to be pivoted in any direction and, when used in combination with the main engines, will move the ship sideways.

Completion of the <u>David Starr Jordan</u> is expected in May 1965. It will replace the 35-year old <u>Black Douglas</u> at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries' Fishery-Oceanography Center at La Jolla. The new vessel honors the late Dr. David Starr Jordan, America's most prominent ichthyologist and the first president of Stanford University.

The contractor is Christy Corporation of Sturgeon Bay.